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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. Cancelled.
2. Cancelled.
3. Cancelled.
4. Cancelled.
5. Cancelled.
6. (Withdrawn) A molding device for molding three-dimensional products from a mass of foodstuff which is suitable for human consumption, comprising:
 - a. a drum having a direction of rotation and comprising a drum wall having at least one mold cavity extending through the drum wall;
 - b. a mass-feed component adjacent the drum for feeding and pressing the mass into the at least one mold cavity; and
 - c. separating means for removing any mass projecting from the at least one mold cavity of the drum.
7. (Withdrawn) The molding device of claim 6, wherein the at least one mold cavity comprises a first and a second mold cavity and wherein the separation means are arranged on the drum and wherein separate separation means are associated with the first and the second mold cavity.

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8. (Withdrawn) The molding device of claim 6, wherein the separation means are fixed at a separation position along the drum.

9. (Withdrawn) The molding device of claim 6, wherein the drum comprises a first surface and a second surface and the mold cavity comprises a first opening positioned along the first surface of the drum and a second opening positioned along the second surface of the drum and wherein the mass-feed component comprises at least one compartment having a feed opening adjacent the first opening of the mold cavity to feed mass into the mold cavity, wherein the molding device further comprises a closure component for at least temporarily closing the second opening of the mold cavity.

10. (Withdrawn) A molding device for molding three-dimensional products from a mass of foodstuff which is suitable for human consumption, comprising:

a. a drum having a first surface, a second surface, and a direction of rotation and comprising a drum wall having at least one passage extending through the drum wall, wherein the at least one passage has a first opening positioned along the first surface of the drum and a second opening positioned along the second surface of the drum;

b. at least one molding component positioned on the first surface of the drum and positioned over the first opening of the passage, wherein the molding component comprises a slideable mold; and

c. a mass-feed component positioned adjacent the second opening of the at least one passage to feed mass through the passage and into the slideable mold.

11.-12. (Cancelled)

13. (Currently Amended) A molding device for molding three-dimensional products from a mass of foodstuff which is suitable for human consumption, comprising:

a. a drum having a first surface, a second surface, and moving along a path and comprising at least one mold cavity defined by mold walls and having a cavity opening positioned along the first surface of the drum;

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b. a mass-feed component positioned adjacent the drum for feeding mass into the at least one mold cavity;

c. a belt positioned adjacent the drum, wherein the belt bears against at least a portion of the first surface of the drum to temporarily close the at least one mold cavity;

d. The molding device of claim 12, further comprising a film-feed means for feeding a disposable film between the belt and the first surface of the drum so as to substantially prevent contact between mass in the at least one mold cavity and the belt; and

e. a film-uptake means for removing the film from between the belt and the first surface of the drum at a point along the path upstream of discharge of the mass from the at least one mold cavity.

14. (Currently Amended) A molding device for molding three-dimensional products from a mass of foodstuff which is suitable for human consumption, comprising:

a. a drum having a first surface, a second surface, and moving along a path and comprising at least one mold cavity defined by mold walls and having a cavity opening positioned along the first surface of the drum;

b. a mass-feed component positioned adjacent the drum for feeding mass into the at least one mold cavity;

c. a belt positioned adjacent the drum, wherein the belt bears against at least a portion of the first surface of the drum to temporarily close the at least one mold cavity; and

d. The molding device of claim 12, further comprising belt pressure means to exert pressure directed substantially toward the drum on at least a portion of the belt that bears against at least a portion of the first surface of the drum, wherein the belt pressure means comprises controllable air pressure.

15. (Currently Amended) A molding device for molding three-dimensional products from a mass of foodstuff which is suitable for human consumption, comprising:

a. a drum having a first surface, a second surface, and moving along a path and comprising at least one mold cavity defined by mold walls and having a cavity opening positioned along the first surface of the drum;

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b. a mass-feed component positioned adjacent the drum for feeding mass into the at least one mold cavity; The molding device of claim 11, further comprising:

c. film-feed means positioned adjacent the drum and upstream of the mass-feed component, wherein the film-feed means is adapted to place for placing a film to at least partially cover the at least one mold cavity before mass is fed into the cavity;

d. vacuum means for removing air from the mold cavity at least partially covered by the film so that the film comes to lie against the walls of the mold cavity; and

e. ejector means for removing the mass from the at least one mold cavity; and

f. a film coating station positioned adjacent the drum between the film-feed means and the mass-feed component to apply a coating to the film.

16. (Original) The molding device of claim 15, further comprising aeration means for feeding air into the at least one mold cavity.

17. (Original) The molding device of claim 15, further comprising a connecting passage connecting the at least one mold cavity and the second surface of the drum.

18.-20. (Cancelled).

21. (Currently Amended) A molding device for molding three-dimensional products from a mass of foodstuff which is suitable for human consumption, comprising:

a. a drum having a first surface, a second surface, and moving along a path and comprising at least one mold cavity defined by mold walls and having a cavity opening positioned along the first surface of the drum;

b. a mass-feed component positioned adjacent the drum for feeding mass into the at least one mold cavity; The molding device of claim 11, further comprising:

c. first film-feed means comprising a supply reel of plastic film for placing [[a]] the plastic film to at least partially cover the walls of the at least one mold cavity before mass is fed into the cavity;

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d. closure means for at least temporarily closing the cavity opening on the first surface of the drum;

e. a connecting passage connecting the at least one mold cavity and the second surface of the drum; and

f. pressure medium feed means arranged along the second surface of the drum for feeding a gaseous or liquid pressure medium into the connecting passage to generate a fixing pressure in the mass when enclosed in the mold cavity by the closure means.

22. (Withdrawn) The molding device of claim 11, further comprising:

c. closure means for at least temporarily closing the cavity opening,

wherein the mold cavity is further defined by an adjustable base and has a cavity volume that varies depending on the position of the base, wherein the mold cavity has:

i. a first volume when the base is positioned in a first position before mass is fed into the cavity;

ii. a second volume when the base is positioned in a second position after mass has been fed into the cavity but before the cavity opening has been closed; and

iii. a third volume when the base is positioned in a third position after the cavity opening has been closed by the closure means,

wherein the second volume is greater than the first volume and the third volume.

23. (Withdrawn) A molding device for molding three-dimensional products from a mass of foodstuff which is suitable for human consumption, comprising:

a. a mold comprising a mold cavity, wherein the mold cavity is at least partially lined with a substantially flexible membrane; and

b. feed means for feeding a pressure medium between the mold and the membrane at a feed position.

24. (Withdrawn) The molding device of claim 23, wherein the flexibility of the membrane is variable and wherein a part of the membrane which lies in the vicinity of the feed position is less flexible than the remainder of the membrane.

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25. (Withdrawn) A molding device according to claim 23, wherein positioning means are provided for positioning a rigid, preferably edible, body on the flexible membrane in the vicinity of the feed position.

26. (Withdrawn) A molding device for molding three-dimensional products from a mass of foodstuff which is suitable for human consumption, comprising:

- a. a mold comprising a mold cavity defined by side walls and a base and having a cavity opening, wherein the base comprises a piston; and
- b. pressure medium feed means having outlet nozzles arranged in the base of the mold cavity for supplying pressure to the base to move the piston.

27. (Cancelled).

28. (Currently Amended) A molding device for molding three-dimensional products from a mass of foodstuff which is suitable for human consumption and has a viscosity, comprising:

- a. a drum having a first surface, a second surface, and moving along a path and comprising at least one mold cavity defined by mold walls and having a cavity opening positioned along the first surface of the drum;
- b. a mass-feed component positioned adjacent the drum for feeding mass into the at least one mold cavity;
- c. a pump device coupled to the mass-feed component for supplying the mass to the mass-feed component; and ~~The molding device of claim 27, further comprising~~
- d. additive feed means for feeding additives ~~under pressure to the pump device to~~ alter the viscosity of the mass.

29. (Currently Amended) The molding device of claim ~~28~~ 27, further comprising:

- ~~d e.~~ closure means for ~~at least~~ temporarily closing the cavity opening ~~[[;]]~~.

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30. (Currently Amended) The molding device of claim 28 27, wherein a plurality of pump devices are coupled to the mass-feed component for supplying different types of masses to the mass-feed component.

31. (Cancelled).

32. (Withdrawn) The molding device of claim 31, wherein the position of the base of the at least one mold cavity is adjustable by the device to vary the volume of the mold cavity, wherein the device moves the base into:

i. a first position when the mold cavity is located along the path at the position of the first mass-feed component, wherein the mold cavity has a first volume when the base is in the first position; and

ii. a second position when the mold cavity is located along the path at the position of the second mass-feed component, wherein the mold cavity has a second volume that is greater than the first volume when the base is in the second position.

33. (Withdrawn) The molding device of claim 31, further comprising:

d. a hollow-forming component positioned along the path between the first mass-feed component and the second mass-feed component, wherein the hollow-forming component forms a hollow in the mass which has been fed into the mold cavity by the first mass-feed component; and

e. a filling-introducing component positioned along the path between the hollow-forming component and the second mass-feed component for introducing a filling into the hollow.

34. (Withdrawn) A molding device for molding three-dimensional products from a mass of foodstuff which is suitable for human consumption, comprising:

a. a stationary central tube for receiving a mass of foodstuff and having a tube opening through which the mass exits the tube;

b. a rotating ring positioned around the tube;

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c. at least one chamber formed between the tube and the ring and having an outlet passage through which the mass exits the chamber;

d. closure means for closing the outlet passage; and

e. separating means for separating at least a portion of the mass exiting the outlet passage.

35. (Withdrawn) The molding device of claim 34, wherein the closure means and the separating means are positioned on the ring.

36. (Withdrawn) The molding device of claim 35, wherein the closure means comprises a stationary outer casing positioned around the ring, wherein the outer casing comprises a casing opening.

37. (Withdrawn) The molding device of claim 36, wherein the mass exits the chamber when the casing opening is at least partially aligned with the outlet passage.

38. (Cancelled).

39. (Withdrawn) A molding device for molding three-dimensional products from a mass of foodstuff which is suitable for human consumption comprising:

a. at least one mold cavity having at least one opening;

b. at least one mass-feed component for filling the at least one mold cavity with a portion of a mass of foodstuff via the at least one opening; and

c. closure means for at least temporarily closing the at least one cavity opening,

wherein the at least one mold cavity further comprises an adjustable base and has a cavity volume that varies depending on the position of the base, wherein the at least one mold cavity has:

i. a first volume when the base is positioned in a first position before mass is fed into the cavity;

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ii. a second volume when the base is positioned in a second position after mass has been fed into the cavity but before the cavity opening has been closed; and

iii. a third volume when the base is positioned in a third position after the cavity opening has been closed,

wherein the second volume is greater than the first volume and the third volume.

40. (New) The molding device of claim 13, wherein the film-uptake means comprises means for winding the film onto a reel.

41. (New) A molding device for molding three-dimensional products from a mass of foodstuff which is suitable for human consumption, comprising:

a. a drum having a first surface, a second surface, and moving along a path and comprising at least one mold cavity defined by mold walls and having a cavity opening positioned along the first surface of the drum;

b. a mass-feed component positioned adjacent the drum for feeding mass into the at least one mold cavity;

c. a belt positioned adjacent the drum, wherein the belt bears against at least a portion of the first surface of the drum to temporarily close the at least one mold cavity; and

d. belt pressure means to exert pressure directed substantially toward the drum on at least a portion of the belt that bears against at least a portion of the first surface of the drum, wherein the belt pressure means comprises controllable liquid pressure.

42. (New) A molding device for molding three-dimensional products from a mass of foodstuff which is suitable for human consumption, comprising:

a. a drum having a first surface, a second surface, and moving along a path and comprising at least one mold cavity defined by mold walls and having a cavity opening positioned along the first surface of the drum;

b. a mass-feed component positioned adjacent the drum for feeding mass into the at least one mold cavity;

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- c. a belt positioned adjacent the drum, wherein the belt bears against at least a portion of the first surface of the drum to temporarily close the at least one mold cavity; and
- d. belt pressure means to exert pressure directed substantially toward the drum on at least a portion of the belt that bears against at least a portion of the first surface of the drum, wherein the belt pressure means comprises a chamber at least partially defined by the belt and a source of pressurized medium in communication with the chamber.

43. (New) A molding device for molding three-dimensional products from a mass of foodstuff which is suitable for human consumption, comprising:

- a. a drum having a first surface, a second surface, and moving along a path and comprising at least one mold cavity defined by mold walls and having a cavity opening positioned along the first surface of the drum;
- b. a mass-feed component positioned adjacent the drum for feeding mass into the at least one mold cavity;
- c. a belt positioned adjacent the drum, wherein a first side of the belt bears against at least a portion of the first surface of the drum to temporarily close the at least one mold cavity; and
- d. belt pressure means to exert pressure directed substantially toward the drum on at least a portion of the belt that bears against at least a portion of the first surface of the drum, wherein the belt pressure means comprises a tray placed against a second side of the belt and a source of pressurized medium in communication with the tray.

44. (New) A molding device for molding three-dimensional products from a mass of foodstuff which is suitable for human consumption, comprising:

- a. a drum having a first surface, a second surface, and moving along a path and comprising at least one mold cavity defined by mold walls and having a cavity opening positioned along the first surface of the drum; and
- b. a mass-feed component positioned adjacent the drum for feeding mass into the at least one mold cavity; and

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c. a deformable elastic belt comprising plastic and capable of restoring its shape, wherein the belt bears against the first surface of the drum from a position upstream of the mass-feed component until at least removal of the mass from the at least one mold cavity.

45. (New) The molding device of claim 44, wherein removal of the mass from the at least one mold cavity occurs at a lowermost point along the path.

46. (New) A molding device for molding three-dimensional meat products from a meat mass suitable for human consumption, comprising:

- a. a drum having a first surface, a second surface, and moving along a path and comprising at least one mold cavity defined by mold walls and having a cavity opening positioned along the first surface of the drum;
- b. a meat mass-feed component positioned adjacent the drum for feeding the meat mass into the at least one mold cavity;
- c. a pump device coupled to the meat mass-feed component for supplying the meat mass to the mass-feed component; and
- d. additive feed means for feeding additives to the meat mass in the pump device.

47. (New) A molding device for molding three-dimensional products from a mass of foodstuff suitable for human consumption and having a viscosity, comprising:

- a. a drum having a first surface, a second surface, and moving along a path and comprising at least one mold cavity defined by mold walls and having a cavity opening positioned along the first surface of the drum;
- b. a mass-feed component positioned adjacent the drum for feeding mass into the at least one mold cavity;
- c. a pump device coupled to the mass-feed component for supplying mass to the mass-feed component; and
- d. additive feed means positioned between the pump device and the mass-feed component for feeding additives to the mass.

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48. (New) A molding device for molding three-dimensional products from a mass of foodstuff suitable for human consumption and having a viscosity, comprising:

- a. a drum having a first surface, a second surface, and moving along a path and comprising at least one mold cavity defined by mold walls and having a cavity opening positioned along the first surface of the drum;
- b. a mass-feed component positioned adjacent the drum for feeding mass into the at least one mold cavity;
- c. an extruder coupled to the mass-feed component for supplying mass to the mass-feed component, wherein the extruder comprises an extruder tube and an associated extruder screw rotatable in the extruder tube;
- d. additive feed means connected to the extruder tube.

49. (New) A molding device for molding three-dimensional products from a mass of foodstuff which is suitable for human consumption, comprising:

- a. a drum having a first surface, a second surface, and moving along a path and comprising at least one mold cavity defined by mold walls and having a cavity opening positioned along the first surface of the drum;
- b. a mass-feed component positioned adjacent the drum for feeding mass into the at least one mold cavity;
- c. a pumping device coupled to the mass-feed component to feed the mass to the mass-feed component, wherein the pumping device comprise a regulator to regulate the filling pressure of the mass;
- d. closure means for temporarily closing the cavity opening on the first surface of the drum;
- e. a connecting passage connecting the at least one mold cavity and the second surface of the drum; and
- f. pressure medium feed means arranged along the second surface of the drum for feeding a gaseous or liquid pressure medium into the connecting passage to generate a fixing pressure in the mass enclosed in the mold cavity by the closure means.

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50. (New) A molding device for molding three-dimensional products from a mass of foodstuff which is suitable for human consumption, comprising:

- a. a drum having a first surface, a second surface, and moving along a path and comprising at least one mold cavity defined by mold walls and having a cavity opening positioned along the first surface of the drum;
- b. a mass-feed component positioned adjacent the drum for feeding mass into the at least one mold cavity at a filling pressure;
- c. an extruder comprising an extruder tube and an associated extruder screw rotatable in the extruder tube, wherein the extruder is adapted to feed mass to the mass-feed component in such a manner that the filling pressure of the mass is regulated;
- d. closure means for temporarily closing the cavity opening on the first surface of the drum;
- e. a connecting passage connecting the at least one mold cavity and the second surface of the drum; and
- f. pressure medium feed means arranged along the second surface of the drum for feeding a gaseous or liquid pressure medium into the connecting passage to generate a fixing pressure in the mass enclosed in the mold cavity by the closure means.